

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 55

EDITOR: CONNIE MASTERS

FEBRUARY 1994

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Good News! as you will all know by now, the AGO has learned that we will have "From Cezanne to Matisse: Great French Paintings from the Barnes Foundation". This will make us very busy mid September to late December.

We are now recruiting new staff for Tuesdays as we will be open again from May 24 to Thanksgiving. So if anyone has a friend that needs to keep busy and is looking for an interesting afternoon's outing, send her along to us as a Tuesday Volunteer.

Our Spring housecleaning has been done early this year; with all publications moved into the new Storage Room, chairs all arranged in the new O.R. Room, all folding tables stored neatly behind cupboard doors in the Chair's office and our back storage area so tidy you can see the "bathtub" again. (new volunteers will have to ask about that one).

The groundhog has seen his shadow so another 6 weeks of winter, but we are ready to spring into action for a wonderful 1994.

Thanks to those who participated in the Town Hall Forum and a special thank you to Marcia and her Kettledrum for the sumptuous supper.

PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE: nothing this Newsletter as it's all in the Town Hall information, except EMERGENCY EVACUATION.

In case of fire or bomb threats - all visitors should leave immediately via the Grange front door.

Don't wait to change from costume into regular clothing. Grab purses and outer garments and shoes, and exit from Grange front door into the park.

If bake oven is in use, push embers as far back as possible, and if time, bank any fire in the fireplace.

Do all of the above "on the run"

Elizabeth Chish Graham

COLLEGE



BOARD

OF EDUCATION

NEWS OF GRANGERS

SICK LIST

We hope it will not be too long before Ellen Young (Wednesday) is with us again. You are missed very much!

NEW FACES

Welcome to: Ann MacInnes, Bev. Mitchell and Jim MacDonald (Sun)
Isabelle Mignault and Maria Russo (Fri)
Heather Craig (Wed)

We hope that you will get much enjoyment and satisfaction from your work in The Grange.

DEPARTURES

Wai Lau - Saturday.

Wai knew nothing about pioneer kitchens and baking when he volunteered at The Grange a year ago when we re-opened, but he settled right in and made the bakeroom his own. He became a daring and imaginative artist in dough. What surprises awaited the Sunday shift! The Saturday Grangers went into mourning when we learned that Wai was being transferred to Montreal. How we will miss his humour and his creative cookery!

HELP WANTED

1. Marcia Hawken hopes there are one or two volunteers out there who would like to help her with the preparation of the refreshments served at The Grange Luncheon Lectures (March 3, 24, April 14). Basic skills required only. Please call Marcia at 964-9067 or leave a message with Peggy Eades (ext. 237).

2. Is there a financial wizard in the crowd who would help Dorothy Brown with The Grange accounting? Please leave a message with Peggy Eades.

3. Looking for a challenge?

Ever wanted to experience the ego-enhancing sensation of holding a crowd mesmerized by your wit and eloquence? Then Florence Watts would like to talk to you about becoming involved with The Grange's school tours and programs. If curious, why not come in one morning and observe the action? Florence's number is 656-1780, and she is waiting at the other end of the line to take your call.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Art Gallery of Ontario

4. How would you like to represent The Grange at far away places like Etobicoke? February is Ontario Heritage Month, and more than 50 historic sites and organizations are celebrating Heritage Week itself on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 24, 25 and 26 at Sherway Gardens, with colourful displays and craft demonstrations. The Grange will have a table displaying our handsome new Grange triptych, and there will be demonstrations of pin-pricking, always a big hit with the little people. Elaine Freedman, our Special Events Chairman, needs people from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm each day and has posted a notice in the staff room where volunteers can sign up for this event and indicate the hours they would be available. You are not expected to work the full seven hours, unless you want to, of course!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR FIGHTS FOR RECOGNITION FOR HARRIETTE DIXON

Your editor is on a crusade to earn for Harriette Dixon Boulton Smith the recognition she deserves as the benefactor who gave Toronto its first art gallery, the land on which the AGO now stands, and to local residents a large park. Is her name recorded permanently anywhere? No - all that we see on historic plaques is the name of her second husband, Goldwin Smith - dammit - it was HER house and HER land. Why isn't the park called the Harriette Dixon Memorial Gardens, for instance? Why isn't Harriette's portrait bust located in a place of honour in Weston Hall with a suitable inscription and surrounded with fresh flowers? We have a Tannenbaum Atrium, a Weston Hall, a Fudger Gallery, and so on - but where is Harriette? None of it would be here if it had not been for her gift in the first place.

The first salvo in the "Hurrah for Harriette" campaign will be fired this year when, on her birthday, Thursday, March 24, The Grange will be serving birthday cake to all visitors to the house. It's a beginning - cake today - tomorrow - who knows?

Remember - March 24 is Harriette Dixon Day at The Grange. Come and join in celebrating her birthday.

SPECIAL ALERT FOR TUESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Recall notice for volunteers who used to work on Tuesdays.

As of the 24th of May, the AGO and The Grange will be open again on Tuesday, with the AGO closed on Friday nights.

This is what you have been waiting for!!

NEW ARRIVALS IN BAKEROOM

Have you noticed the handsome blue and white mixing bowls that have appeared on the shelf in the bakeroom? They are replacements for some old ones that had developed dangerous cracks. Blue mottled pottery like this came from Staffordshire, England, and was known as sponged ware. The effect was created by dabbing the ware with a sponge impregnated with colour after firing. It became very popular after it was introduced in the early 19th century. In the U.S. it is often known as spatterware.

A big thank you to Kay Kirker, assisted by Eleanor Greig, who went all the way out to the shop at Black Creek Pioneer Village to pick them up for us.

D'ARCY BOULTON, AUTHOR

How many of you were aware that Judge Boulton, whose somewhat stern visage looks down on all who climb the staircase in his son's house, in 1805, put pen (quill, of course) to paper and wrote "Sketch of His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada"? He gives a fascinating description of the town of York and surrounding territory, and his indomitable optimism and affection for his new country is evident on every page. In the preface to the 1961 reprint, John Gellner calls Judge Boulton's book "an extremely well-written and uncommonly interesting prospectus about Ontario".

We have two copies of the 1961 reprint in The Grange library, and it is a "must read" for any Grange volunteer.

GRANGE FEATURED IN NEW BOOK

"Macdonald Was Late for Dinner", sub-titled A Slice of Culinary Life in Early Canada, has arrived in the library. The author is Patricia Beeson, and she has combined historic anecdotes, recipes and some great photographs from bygone days in Ontario. Grangers are directed to pages 109 to 111 for the section on The Grange. Unfortunately, there is an error in the text - can you spot it?

A REQUEST FROM JEAN GRAY, OUR COSTUMIER

Over the years, Jean has produced over 100 aprons - where have they all gone? There are not 100 Grange volunteers, but there are no extra aprons in costume storage. Will everyone please check their garment bag to see if an extra apron might be lurking at the bottom?

GRANGE VOLUNTEERS STARS OF CIVIC GARDEN CENTRE PROGRAM

Annie O'Brian and Mary Aziz (Thursday Grangers) covered themselves with glory when they represented The Grange at "A Heritage Christmas", a demonstration of Christmas decorations at the Civic Garden Centre on November 23 and 28. Annie and Mary demonstrated how to make the Christmas arrangement of greenery and nuts that fill the fanlight over The Grange front door at Christmas. An award-winning member of the Garden Club of Toronto and a professional designer were also participating. At the conclusion of the demonstrations there was a draw, the holder of the winning ticket choosing the arrangement they wished to take home. Do you need to be told the winner's choice?!?

Your Newsletter's roving reporter says that the ladies' saucy commentary was as much of a hit as their floral artistry.

GRANGE LOGO GETS COMPUTERIZED

Thanks to the computer wizardry of Elaine Freedman (Tuesday), The Grange logo has now been entered into our computer, and can be summoned up like magic to embellish any memo, letter, etc., that is sent out from The Grange. It looks very handsome as you can see from the front page of the Newsletter.

REPORT FROM GRANGE RESEARCHER AND SLEUTH EXTRAORDINAIRE
AVRIL STRINGER

We at The Grange have always been under the impression that Goldwin Smith's library was willed to Cornell University together with his money. Not so. I have recently looked up his will, and find that the library was left to the University of Toronto with the exception of some art books which were to have stayed in The Grange. The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto confirms that they did receive Goldwin Smith's books. The art books were not identified and their present whereabouts are unknown.

When in New York recently, I "discovered" the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in particular The Henry R. Luce Study Centre. This is open to the public and contains a fabulous collection of 18th and 19th century artifacts, together with a bank of computers for further information on any item. It is well worth a visit.

A request - from time to time I find that someone has left an interesting clipping from a magazine or newspaper in my box in the office. Please ensure that the name of the publication and the date be indicated on the item.

CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO THE GRANGE

In 1992, The Grange was dark at Christmas. Because of Stage III construction, for the first time in many years the sights and sounds of Christmas were absent from the house.

With December, 1993, seasonal merriment and colourful decorations returned to the delight of volunteers and visitors alike. On December 6, a busy bevy of Grangers descended on the house, and by the time the day was over it had been transformed into a vision of Christmas past, bedecked with pine boughs, cedar wreaths, red ribbons, apples, nuts and bittersweet. Chairman Elizabeth would like to thank Marjorie Gilligan, Pleasance Crawford, Anne Morison, Annie O'Brian, Mary Aziz, Helvi Hunter, Connie Masters, Elvira Putrus, Barbara Thamer, Kay Kirker, John Belle, Bea Calendino and Penny Carter, for all their hard work.

Deserving of special mention is Ruth Jones of Tech Services who performed great feats of daring, scaling the tallest of ladders to hang greenery in inaccessible places and to hang the wreath in the great window on the staircase. Because the cedar dries out very quickly, Helvi Hunter and Lucienne Watt returned on December 20 to redo the staircase.

A Harmony of Harps - The Grange Christmas Musicale

On December 10, an appreciative and sold-out audience was charmed by the heavenly sounds of harpist Angelica Ottewill, with Diana Hamer, recorder, Paul Therrier, percussion, and a choral group performing music of the season. At intermission mulled cider and shortbread was served. Elaine Freedman, Chairman, Special Events, wants to thank the volunteers who helped at the musicale, especially Karen Jackson and John Belle.

Another Grange tradition returned this year when we held our Christmas Open House for AGO staff. On December 20. It was a warm and happy affair, with everyone having a chance to relax and chat while sipping mulled cider and nibbling shortbread. Some staff had not been inside The Grange before and were delighted to discover us, and see where the Gallery had its beginnings. Many favourable comments were heard by your editor and Peggy Eades in the days following. Grangers helping with the Open House were Avril Stringer, John Belle and Connie Masters.

The provider of all the shortbread consumed at these festive affairs was Richard Diemer, Thursday, and he deserves three cheers and many pats on the back for all his work.

THE GRANGE SALUTES ART IN BLOOM

With Art in Bloom about to burst upon us, The Grange offers this charming poem which we feel is particularly appropriate to the occasion:

To A Pioneer Rose

From a far land she came, the wide seas daring,
A strange new path to share,
To a log cot in a lonely clearing, walls rude and bare,
With the dark forest like an army waiting
To hold her there.
Yet, woman-like, she came not empty-handed,
Her treasures small she brought,
Her finest linen and her good stone china, her paisley shawl,
And a stout rose bush from her mother's garden
To plant beside her wall.

And if she sighed for dear ones left behind her,
For the green acres of her native sod
She hid her tears and wore her gayest bonnet,
Leaving the future to her man - and God.
The tall pines bowed to her friendly greeting,
The rich earth yearned to know this green-thumbed maid
Whose touch would waken that which yet was sleeping,
Whose garden flourished well in sun or shade.

The old log house to time and stress had yielded,
The cool green fields now gently cover all
Yet from yon stone fence a wild rose beckons -
Its roots still clinging to her garden wall.

The author was Edith Henderson, whose family pioneered in the Sparrow Lake area of Ontario. She first published a short story in MacLeans Magazine in 1915, and continued to publish short stories and poems in both Canadian and American periodicals for many years. Mrs. Henderson died last year at 107.

HISTORIC CLUB HAS OPEN HOUSE

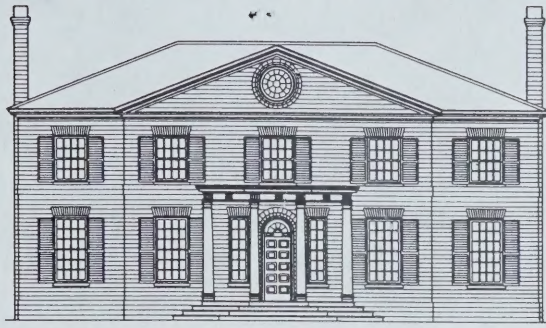
The Heliconian Club on Hazelton Avenue in deepest Yorkville, celebrates its 85th anniversary this year, and to mark the occasion is holding an open house on Saturday, April 23, from noon to 5:00 pm. This is an opportunity to have a look at one of the city's older buildings as the Club occupies what was formerly the Olivet Congregational Church, built in 1876. Not only is this a venerable building, but a rare Toronto example of the Carpenter Gothic style of board and batten construction, once common enough in village and country churches, but now in Toronto only St. Andrew's-on-the Island and this beautiful example survive.

The Heliconian Club was formed in 1909 by Mary Hewitt Smart, a music teacher at the Toronto Conservatory of Music, as she felt that women engaged in painting, writing and music would benefit from meeting together. The Club bought the former church in 1923. Interestingly enough, there is a somewhat tenuous Grange connection - Goldwin Smith is supposed to have given the Club its name. Helicon is the name of a range of mountains in the Greek province of Boetia, and in mythology was the home of the Muses, nine female divinities who presided over the arts and sciences.

For more information about the open house, which may continue until April 30, please telephone 922-3618.

THINGS TO DO

1. Attend The Grange Luncheon/Lectures. There isn't a better or more pleasant way of enriching and enlarging your understanding of so many different aspects of 19th century life in Upper Canada, while enjoying a delicious lunch. Peggy is waiting to take your ticket order. Full details of the Spring Luncheon/Lectures are found on the last page of the Newsletter.
2. Visit ROM, and see the Sigmund Samuel Gallery in its new home as part of the ROM's new set of galleries, the Canadian Heritage Floor. The Sigmund Samuel collection has over 1,200 objects of early Canadian decorative arts and historical paintings, and is unrivalled anywhere in Canada.
3. The Michael Snow exhibition - March 11 - June 5, 1994.
4. Celebrate Heritage Month with a visit to another Historic site. The Toronto Historical Board is offering free admission to all its properties during Heritage Week - Fort York, Colborne Lodge, Spadina, Mackenzie House and the Maritime Museum.



THE GRANGE LUNCHEON LECTURES
SPRING 1994

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Perhaps Clio, the muse of history, was hovering nearby as Toronto's 200th birthday approached, or the occasion was particularly inspiring for writers, whatever the reason an unusually fine crop of books appeared on subjects related to our city's formative years. The Grange has invited three of the authors to participate in the Spring Luncheon Lectures, and to share their research and scholarship with us.

- Thursday, March 3. Carl Benn, Curator of Marine and Military History, Toronto Historical Board. Author "Historic Fort York, 1793-1993".
11:00 am. "Local history of a high and provocative kind"
 - John Bentley Mays, Globe & Mail.
- Thursday, March 24 Richard Feltoe, Curator & Corporate Archivist, Redpath Sugar Museum. Author "Redpath, the History of a Sugar House", and its sequel "Let Redpath Sweeten It".
11:00 am. "Handsome, well-written and well-produced history" - Roberta M. Styran, Ontario History.
- Thursday, April 14 Brendon O'Brien Q.C., Founding President, The Osgoode Society. Author "Speedy Justice: The Tragic Last Voyage of His Majesty's Vessel Speedy".
11:00 am. "All the characteristics of good detective fiction - but the book is not fiction, but carefully researched and well-written history".
 - James M. Clemens, Ontario History.

TICKETS: AGO members are \$14 for each lecture - \$40 for series.
 Non-members \$16 each - \$45 for series. Lunch is included.

To order please call Program Registration at 979-6608

For further information call The Grange at 979-6660 ext 337

